

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated August 2, 2006, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 10-18. The allowance of claims 1-9 is noted with appreciation.

Claims 10-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102, on the basis of the newly-cited Benkowski et al patent (U.S. 5,947,892). Claims 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103, on the basis of the Benkowski patent in view of the Brugger et al patent (U.S. 7,004,924).

Prior to issuing the Office Action, the Examiner provided Applicant's undersigned representative with proposed amendments to claims 10 and 19 that would place the application in condition for allowance. Those proposed changes are reflected in the foregoing amendment to claim 10.

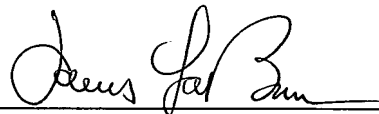
Based upon the representations made by the Examiner, it is believed that claims 10-18 are now in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections of those claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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